

## Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9785

S E C R E T KINSHASA 4993

NODIS

E.O. 11652: X-GDS ADS-31 DEC. 1984

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CASC CG

SUBJECT: SHABA ATTACK - AIRBORNE OPERATIONS PLANNING

1. AT A MEETING CONDUCTED AT 1750Z 18 MAY AND ATTENDED BY  
GENERA BABIA, GENERAL SINGA, FAZ GENERAL STAFF, FRENCH STAFF  
INCLUDING COL GRAS, BELGIAN STAFF INCLUDING COL. BLEUS, CHIEF AND  
DEPUTY CHIEF ZAMISH, AIRBORNE OPERATIONS PLANNING CONTINUED.

2. GENERAL BABIA OPENED THE MEETING BY ANNOUNCING THAT PRESIDENT  
MOBUTU WENT TO THE AIRFIELD AT KOLWEZI, LANDED, SPOKE TO MAJOR MAYELE

,  
AND STAYED ONE HOUR. JOURNALISTS WERE ABOARD HIS C-130.

3. HE THEN ASKED THE BELGIANS FOR THEIR PLAN. BLEUS RESPONDED  
THAT THE FOLLOWING AIRCRAFT WILL BE LANDING AT KAMINA:

1 C-130 AT 1700Z 18 MAY

1 C-130 AT 1800Z 18 MAY

3 C-130 AT 2200Z 18 MAY

3 C-130 AT 1400Z 19 MAY (HE THINKS THIS IS AN ERROR IN  
TRANSMISSION AND WILL VERIFY)

1 C-130 AT 0345Z 19 MAY

2 727 AT 1115 AND 1215Z 19 MAY

6 ADDITIONAL 727 DURING 19 MAY - NO SCHEDULE

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4. THE FRENCH PLAN ACCORDING TO GRAS: FOLLOWING AIRCRAFT WILL  
ARRIVE AT N'DJILI AIRPORT:

4 DC-8 AT 2135Z 18 MAY

1 707 AT 0530Z 19 MAY

4 TRANSALLS DURING EVENING 18/19 MAY

5. TACTICAL PLAN: BELGIANS WILL USE EIGHT BELGIAN C-130'S FOR AIR

DROP, STAGING FROM KAMINA. THE FRENCH WILL USE FOUR FAZA C-130'S AND FOUR FRENCH TRANSALLS STAGING FROM N'DJILI. ALL AIRCRAFT WILL RENDEZ-VOUS IN AIR OVER KAMINA AND THE PARACHUTE OPERATION SCHEDULED FOR 0430Z 20 MAY OVER KOLWEZI WILL BE CONDUCTED IN ONE WAVE.

6. COORDINATION: A) IT WAS AGREED THAT BELGIANS COMMAND GROUP MUST COME TO KINSHASA FOR COORDINATION MEETINGS BETWEEN THE BELGIAN AND FRENCH GROUND COMMANDERS AND THE FAZ GENERAL STAFF. A MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 1100 HOURS LOCAL 19 MAY.

B) IT WAS AGREED THAT THE LIAISON OFFICERS WOULD BE EXCHANGED BETWEEN THE FRENCH AND BELGIAN PARATROOPERS AND THAT A QUALIFIED FAZ OFFICER WOULD JUMP WITH EACH FRENCH COMPANY.

7. GENERAL BABIA ASKED FOR A MISSION STATEMENT OF THE BELGIAN TROOPS. ARE YOU PLANNING A RESCUE/OPERATION? DO YOU PLAN ON EVACUATING THE BELGIAN POPULATION? IF SO, IT WOULD MEAN THAT YOUR TROOPS WOULD BE HERE NO MORE THAN 48 HOURS. THE EVACUATION OF THE BELGIAN CADRE FROM GECAMINES WOULD COLLAPSE THE ZAIRIAN ECONOMY. BLEUS ANSWERED THAT AT THIS TIME HE DID NOT KNOW THE EXACT MISSION. THE BELGIAN GROUND COMMANDER WILL HAVE THAT WHEN HE ARRIVES. IT WAS BLEUS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE BELGIAN MISSION IS PRIMARILY A RESCUE OPERATION.

ON THE OTHER HAND, COL. GRAS STATED THAT THE FRENCH MISSION IS THE SECURITY OF THE POPULATION, BOTH WHITE AND BLACK, IN THE KOLWEZI AREA IMPLYING A MUCH LONGER STAY FOR THE FRENCH

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TROOPS. COMMENT: THIS APPARENT DIFFERENCE, MAY BE THE CAUSE FOR THE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES BETWEEN GOB AND GOF, AS IT APPEARS THE FRENCH ARE PREPARED TO SECURE THE TOWN AND TO ASSIST ZAIRE IN GETTING ITS ECONOMY MOVING AGAIN. WHEREAS THE BELGIAN MISSION APPEARS TO BE A RESCUE OPERATION AND THOSE EXPATRIATES WHO DESIRE TO LEAVE WILL BE EVACUATED BY THE 727 AIRCRAFT.

8. DEPT PLEASE DETERMINE DISTRIBUTION.  
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## Message Attributes

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